

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- Claim 1 (presently amended)
- Claim 2 (presently amended)
- Claim 3 (presently amended)
- Claim 4 (cancelled)
- Claim 5 (presently amended)
- Claim 6 (cancelled)
- Claim 7 (cancelled)
- Claim 8 (cancelled)
- Claim 9 (cancelled)
- Claim 10 (cancelled)
- Claim 11 (presently amended)
- Claim 12 (presently amended)
- Claim 13 (presently amended)
- Claim 14 (cancelled)
- Claim 15 (cancelled)
- Claim 16 (presently amended)
- Claim 17 (presently amended)
- Claim 18 (original)
- Claim 19 (previously presented)
- Claim 20 (cancelled)
- Claim 21 (presently amended)

1. (Presently amended)

A method for preventing an unauthorized access to information equipment in addition to the use of a password comprising the steps of:

~~Obtaining current~~ storing utilization information of previous access to the information equipment[[;]] ~~storing~~ along with at least one password[[s]] in an electrically writeable read only memory having access controls that control access to reading and/or writing the utilization information and the password[[s]];

informing a current user of the ~~current~~ utilization information of previous accesses when the current user obtains access to the information equipment;

writing utilization information of the current users access ~~to be obtained next time or information necessary for obtaining utilization information next time~~ into the electrically writeable read only memory for informing a future user of the current users access and using the access controls to read and/or write utilization information and to block access [[to]] of the current user for modification of such utilization information; and

writing the utilization information in at least any one of when the information equipment is powered on, when the information equipment resumes from a power saving mode, and when a specific function of the information equipment is selected.

2. (Presently Amended)

The method for preventing an unauthorized access to information equipment according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~current~~ utilization information includes at least one of each of:

the number of power-on times of the information equipment[[,]] ;

the number of resumes of the information equipment from a power saving mode[[,]] ;

the number of selections of a specific function of the information equipment[[,]] ; and

the number of activation times of the information equipment; ~~comprising~~

including: the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode[[,]] the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the information equipment[[,]] ; the last date and time of shifting the information equipment to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the information equipment from the power saving mode[[,]] ; the last date and time when a specific function of the information equipment was selected or the last date and time when use of the specific function of the information equipment was completed[[,]] ; and a total use time of the information equipment.

3. (Presently Amended)

The method for preventing an unauthorized access to information equipment according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~current~~ utilization information of the information equipment is obtained by reading utilization information that should be obtained next time and is written in the storage means, or by reading information necessary for obtaining the utilization information written in the storage means and performing predetermined calculation with using the information that is read.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Presently Amended)

The method for preventing an unauthorized access to ~~a computer~~ the information equipment according to Claim 4, wherein the ~~current~~ utilization information includes one of: the number of power-on times of the ~~computer~~, information, the number of resumes of the ~~computer~~ information equipment from a power saving mode, the number of activation times of the ~~computer~~ information equipment including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the ~~computer~~, information equipment the last date and time of shifting the ~~computer~~

information equipment to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the ~~computer~~ information equipment from the power saving mode, and the total use time of the ~~computer~~ information equipment.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Presently Amended)

A computer comprising:

a nonvolatile storage means for storing passwords that can lock storage contents against modification by users;

a utilization information management unit for obtaining ~~current~~ utilization information about time of use of the computer in at least any one of ~~timing just after~~ when the computer is powered on, when a specific function of the computer was selected and ~~timing just after~~ when the computer resumes from a power saving mode, and writing the utilization information ~~to be obtained next time or information necessary for obtaining utilization information next time~~ into the nonvolatile storage means, and locking storage contents; and

a teaching unit for informing a user of the ~~current~~ utilization information obtained by the utilization information management unit and stored in the nonvolatile storage means where it cannot be modified by the user.

12. (Presently Amended)

The computer according to Claim 11, wherein the ~~current~~ utilization information includes at least one of the number of power-on times of the computer, the number of resumes of the computer from a power saving mode, the number of activation times of the computer including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the computer, the last date and time of shifting the computer to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the computer from the power saving mode, and the total use time of the computer.

13. (Presently Amended)

The computer according to Claim 11, wherein the storage means comprises an EEPROM that can lock storage contents ~~and release the lock of the storage contents when power supply is stopped~~ from modification by a user.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Presently Amended)

An information equipment program product on an information equipment usable medium method for preventing an unauthorized access to the information equipment the program product comprising the steps of:

software for obtaining ~~current~~ utilization information ~~of the information~~ about time of use of the information equipment;

software for using the controls for controlling access to passwords to write and/or read and to lock utilization information into a writeable read only storage means used to store the passwords;

software for informing a user of the ~~current~~ previous utilization information; and

software for writing utilization information by the user into storage means to be obtained next time the equipment is used by an authorized user, [[or]] said utilized information including at least one of when the information equipment is powered on, when the information equipment resumes from a power saving mode, and when a specific function of the information equipment is selected.

17. (Presently Amended)

The program product according to Claim 1, wherein the current utilization information includes at least one of each of: the number of power-on times of the information equipment[[,]] ; the number of resumes of the information equipment from a power saving mode[[,]] ; the number of selections of a specific function of the information equipment[[,]] ; the number of activation times of the information equipment ~~comprising~~ including: the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the information equipment, the last date and time of shifting the information equipment to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the information equipment from the power saving mode, the last date and time when a specific function of the information equipment was selected or the last date and time when use of the specific function of the information equipment was completed, and a total use time of the information equipment.

18. (Original)

The program product according to Claim 17 including:

software for writing utilization information to be obtained or information necessary for obtaining utilization information into a nonvolatile storage means that can lock storage contents, and locking the storage contents of the storage means.

19. (Previously presented)

The method of claim 1 including the steps of:

providing the writeable read only store with access control with the ability of providing in the alternative

- a) no access
- b) read only access
- c) no access constraints

and with an access control to permit or not permit changing between the aforementioned states.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Presently Amended)

The method of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 16 including ~~the steps of:~~

software providing the writeable read only store with access control with the ability of providing in the alternative

- a) no access
- b) read only access
- c) no access constraints

and with an access control to permit or not permit changing between the aforementioned states.